

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029

SUBJECT: Toxicological Review of HW35 Data 26 March 2012
Dimock, PA

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On 31 January 2012, U.S. EPA collected water samples from HW35 in Dimock. The samples were analyzed for over 200 constituents, including volatile organic compounds, semi-volatile compounds, metals and bacteria. The analytical results were then validated and compared to risk-based screening levels and/or standards for public drinking water supplies.

Coliform Bacteria

In HW35, the total coliform count was 34 cfu/100 mL. The purpose of analyzing for total coliform is to indicate the potential presence of fecal coliform, which is an illness-causing member of the coliform family. In HW35, fecal coliform was, in fact, observed to be present in the collected sample. The presence of fecal coliform could cause severe gastrointestinal illness in exposed individuals.

Lead

Lead was observed in a sample collected from the wellhead at 21.2 ug/L; the filtered sample contained lead at 2.4 ug/L. Concentrations of lead at the tap of HW35 are not known. The determination of potential lead risks depends on many factors, including who is exposed (young children vs. adults) and what other sources of lead exposure may exist. Exposure to 21.2 ug/L of lead in drinking water alone would not be expected to pose a health threat. The Federal Action Level for lead in public water supplies is 15 ug/L.

Sodium

Samples collected from HW35 contained sodium at 28,700 ug/L (wellhead); sodium was not detected in the filtered sample from this well. A quantitative assessment of risk cannot be performed for sodium; however, U.S. EPA has a non-enforceable Health Advisory of 20,000 ug/L for sodium in drinking water. This value is based on recommendations for individuals on sodium-restricted diets.

No other constituents were detected at levels of concern in this well.

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